

Judge Blocks Author In Move to Aid Shaw

NEW ORLEANS, La. (UPI)—Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr. blocked Saturday Evening Post author James Phelan from presenting defense testimony of Clay L. Shaw's trial conspiring to assassinate President John Kennedy. The attorneys wanted Shaw to be permitted to testify in a pre-trial deposition. District Atty. Jim Garrison's chief witness against Shaw had been prompted and prodded while under drugs and hypnosis to tell Shaw with accused presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald.

The witness, Perry Raymond Russo, 35, of Baton Rouge, La., testified at a 4-day hearing in March that he attended a party in mid-September 1963 at which he allegedly heard Shaw, Oswald and the late David W. Ferrie discussing ways to go about assassinating Kennedy.

Garrison's office has denied Phelan's claims and has asked Phelan to repeat them before the New Orleans grand jury. Garrison's office did not want Phelan to give testimony on behalf of Shaw unless he first appears before the grand jury.

Haggerty said the defense

motion "isn't even close under Louisiana statutes."

In another development, the New Orleans grand jury had subpoenaed for May 16 a truck salesman who told the FBI that Lee Harvey Oswald may have been in New Orleans and that Dallas two weeks before Kennedy was assassinated.

The Warren Commission said Oswald left New Orleans Sept. 25, 1963 never to return. But Oscar W. Deslatte said a man calling himself "Oswald" picked up trucks "a couple of weeks" before the Nov. 22, 1963 assassination.

Attorney G. Wray Gilly, speaking for Deslatte, said Deslatte attached no importance to the questions the man and a large, swarthy companion asked on behalf of the "friends of Cuba" until after the assassination and the appearance of the assassin.